

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 11387

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, MEX
SUBJ: JLP TEAM NOT NECESSARILY OPPOSED TO SEEKING NEW BRACERO

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA IN SIXTH STATE OF UNION ADDRESS SEPT 1 STATED THAT GOM DID NOT BELIEVE NEW BRACERO AGREEMENT WAS IN ITS INTEREST, AIDE TO PRESIDENT-ELECT LOPEZ PORTILLO (JLP) WHO SPOKE WITH EMBOFF SEPT 2 SAID JPP CAMPE IS EXAMINING ALL OPTIONS WITH POSSIBILITY OF SEEKING NEW AGREEMENT WITH US NOT FORECLOSED BY POSITION (SINCE OCT 74) OF ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION. AIDE SAID SEVERAL GROUPS ARE WORKING ON PROBLEM FOR JLP, EACH TO PRESENT ITS OWN FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, INSTEAD OF ONE GROUP EXAMINING ALL OPTIONS AND LISTING PROS AND CONS. GROUP WITH WHICH AIDE IS WORKING BELIEVES BRACERO AGREEMENT MIGHT FORM PART OF TOTAL PACKAGE TO DEAL WITH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND WILL PROBABLY MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO JLP ALONG THESE LINES. WHILE JLP HIMSELF MAY BE INFLUENCED BY ECHEVERRIA'S CATEGORIC POSITION, HIS AIDES DO NOT APPEAR TO BE OPERATION ON THAT ASSUMPTION.

END SUMMARY.

2. LIC. JAIME CORREDOR, STANFORD UNIVERSITY EDUCATED ECONOMIST WHO HAS BEEN WITH LOPEZ PORTILLO FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS, REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH EMBOFF SEPT 2
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TO TALK ABOUT BRACERO ISSUE. CORREDRO EXPLAINED THAT

HE WAS WORKING WITH ONE OR SEVERAL GROUPS WITHIN CAMP OF PRESIDENT-ELECT LOPEZ PORTILLO (JLP) PREPARING POSITION PAPERS AND BRIEFINGS FOR FORTHCOMING JLP VISIT TO WASHINGTON. EMBOFF GATHERED FROM CORREDOR PRESENTATION THAT EACH GROUP WAS PREPARING ITS OWN RECOMMENDATIONS ON SEVERAL ISSUES AND WOULD BE ADVOCATE FOR ITS OWN VIEWS, INSTEAD OF ONE GROUP SETTING FROTH COMPREHENSIVE PAPER WITH VARIOUS OPTIONS. CORREDOR SAID HE KNEW JLP THUS FAR HAD NOT MADE EVEN TENTATIVE DECISION ON BRACERO ISSUE BUT HE THOUGHT JLP WOULD REACH DECIION "IN PRINCIPLE" BEFORE WASHINGTON TRIP. IN WASHINGTON, HE THOUGHT JLP WOULD WANT ONLY TO DISCUSS PROBLEM IN GENERAL, EXPLORATORY TERMS. PURPOSE OF CORREDOR SEEKING APPOINTMENT WAS TO TEST HIS GROUP'S VIEW OF PROBLEM AGAINST AMERICAN OFFICIAL FAMILIAR WITH THE ISSUE.

3. CORREDOR'S GROUP THOUGHT DECISION OF ECHEVERRIA GOVERNMENT TO DESIST EFFORTS TO OBTAIN NEW BRACERO AGREEMENT IN OCTOBER 1974 HAD BEEN DUE PRIMARILY TO DESIRE NOT TO OFFEND US CHICANO GROUPS. SEVERAL YEARS EARLIER ECHEVERRIA GOVERNMENT HAD MADE DECISION TO FOLLOW LONG RANGE POLICY OF ESTABLISHING CLOSER TIES WITH CHICANO GROUPS, WHICH IT SAW AS POTENTIALLY POLITICALLY POWERFUL, PRO-MEXICAN LOBBY IN US. STRATEGY WAS FLOUNDERING, HOWEVER, ON CHICANOS FEELING THREATENED BY ILLEGAL MEXICAN IMMIGRATION AND BY ANY NEW BRACERO AGREEMENT. IN CORREDOR'S VIEW, ECHEVERRIA HAD PERCEIVED CHOICE BETWEEN CHICANO SUPPORT AND POSSIBLE BRACERO AGREEMENT AS EITHER-OR DECIION, AND HAD OPTED FOR THE FORMER. CORREDOR DISAGREED WITH THIS DECISION BECAUSE HE THOUGHT THE MEXICAN STRATEGY TO DIMINISH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION-- BY INVESTING IN AND DEVELOPING AREAS OF GREATES OUT-MIGRATION -- IMPACTED ON PROBLEM TOO SLOWLY. GOM THUS ENDED UP WITH WORST OF BOTH WORLDS -- NO BRACERO AGREEMENT AND CONTINUING CHICANO RESENTMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. EVEN IF MEXICO COULD OBTAIN US ASSISTANCE FOR THESE DEVELOPMENT PLANS, CORREDRO THOUGHT, MIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT BE CONTROLLED QUICKLY ENOUGH TO SUSTAIN US SUSPPORT FOR THAT ASSISTANCE.

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4. CORREDOR GROUP STARTED FROM ASSUMPTION THAT CHICANO SUPPORT AND BRACERO AGREEMENT WERE NOT NECESSARILY MUTUALLY EXLUSIVE OBJECTIVES. THEY ALSO THOUGHT THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FORMULATE "TOTAL PACKAGE" TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM WHICH COULD OVERCOME OBJECTIONS OF US LABOR, CHICANOS, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTS OPPOSED TO INTRODUCTION OF TEMPORARY MEXICAN LABOR. MISTAKE OOF PAST MEXICAN ADMINISTRATIONS WAS THAY THEY UNDERSTOOD

TOO LITTLE OF INTERNAL US POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DYNAMICS. BECAUSE OF A MEXICAN FAILURE TO DO ITS HOME-WORK PROPERLY, THEY MADE DEMANDS ON THE US WHICH WERE POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR UST TO SATISFY. THEY THEN MADE SITUATION WORSE BY INDULGING THEMSELVES IN PUBLIC WHINING AND RECRIMINATIONS, WHICH ONLY STIFFENED THE US ATTITUDE. JLP. CORREDOR SAID, WAS DETERMINED TO MAKE US-MEXICAN RELATIONS A TOP PRIORITY OF HIS ADMINISTRATION, AND TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF MEXICAN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE US WORKS. (THIS INTEREST HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES CLOSE TO JLP.) MEXICO WOULD LEARN FROM BRAZILIANS WHO WERE FAR AHEAD OF MEXICO IN UNDERSTANDING US POLITICAL SYSTEM AND MAKING IT WORK FOR THEM.

5. WHILE CORREDOR DESCRIBED OUTLINE OF STILL LARGELY UNFORMED "TOTAL PACKAGE" TO DEAL WITH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION WHICH HIS OWN GROUP WAS ELABORATING, IMPORTANT POINT FOR US IS THAT ELEMENTS WITHIN JLP CAMP OBVIOUSLY DO NOT FEEL NECESSARILY BOUND BY POSITION OF ECHEVERRIA GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE. WHILE JLP HIMSELF MAY BE INFLUENCED BY POSITION OF ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION, ALL OPTIONS ARE BEING EXAMINED AND AT LEAST ONE INCLUDES A BRACERO AGREEMENT.
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